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FLOOR DEBATE

April 17, 2002 LB 958, 1105, 1240, 1267

and grant requests to short line railroads. The changes in this amendment had no opposition at the hearing. Since this may be the only opportunity to address this issue this session, I'm asking to you to suspend the rules so that we can consider this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Open for debate on suspending the rules.
Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President. Members, I rise in opposition to the suspension of the rule motion and I'll tell you why, because I'm sure you want to know. I think that a motion to suspend the rules at this late hour for a bill that, while it was a Speaker priority bill, was not a personal priority bill. If you look at the agenda from yesterday, my personal priority bill is on the agenda. Whether you're supportive of that or not is...is not really relevant. The fact is, is that my bill, my priority bill, my personal priority bill was not able to be heard this year because we've obviously run out of time. And there's another bill, LB 958, that's behind mine that's another senator's personal priority bill who's not going to be heard tonight because we're running out of time. There's another bill, LB 1240, Senator Hartnett's priority bill, that is not going to be heard tonight because we've run out of time. There's one other bill, LB 1267. I think it's Senator Preister's priority bill. I'm not certain. But we've run out of time; we won't be able to hear that as well. So, while this idea that Senator McDonald has...this bill might have some merit, I don't think that it's fair to suspend the rules to allow a bill, that's not a personal priority bill, to go forward when there's four priority bills, personal priority bills, that haven't been heard. I don't think that's right. I rise in opposition of the suspension of the rules. If this bill was important it would have had a personal priority rather than a Speaker priority and I don't think that it's appropriate at 10 to 6:00 on the very last day of General File debate that this amendment be adopted. Thank you. I urge your no vote on the suspension of the rules for this measure. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Don Pederson, motion to suspend.